

What is claimed is:

1 ~~1. A network system, comprising:~~

2 ~~a communication line having a predetermined bandwidth;~~

3 ~~a terminal unit that is connected to said communication line~~

4 ~~and receives data through the communication line;~~

5 ~~a first unit that includes said terminal unit through said~~

6 ~~communication line and repeats data to be communicated between said~~

7 ~~terminal unit and said first unit; and~~

8 ~~a second unit that sends data to said terminal unit through~~

9 ~~said first unit according to a bandwidth of said terminal unit that~~

10 ~~is estimated based on a data delay time of said communication line.~~

1 ~~2. A network system, comprising:~~

2 ~~a communication line having a predetermined bandwidth;~~

3 ~~a terminal unit that is connected to said communication line~~

4 ~~and receives data through the communication line;~~

5 ~~a first unit that includes said terminal unit through said~~

6 ~~communication line and repeats data to be communicated between said~~

7 ~~terminal unit and said first unit; and~~

8 ~~a second unit that comprises a first measuring means that is~~

9 ~~connected to said first unit and measures a first round trip time~~

10 ~~as a data delay time between said terminal unit and said second~~

11 ~~unit, a second measuring means that measures a second round trip~~

12 ~~time as a data delay time between said first unit and said second~~

13 ~~unit, a communication line delay calculating means that calculates~~

14 ~~the data delay time of said communication line from said first and~~

15 ~~second round trip times measured by said first and second measuring~~

16 means, respectively, a communication line bandwidth storing means
17 that stores a bandwidth of said communication line corresponding
18 to the data delay time of said communication line, and a data sending
19 means that sends data to said terminal unit according to the bandwidth
20 of said communication line stored in said communication line bandwidth
21 storing means corresponding to the data delay time calculated by
22 said communication line delay calculating means.

1 3. A network system, comprising:

2 a terminal unit that sends an echo response with a predetermined
3 counter value to the sender of a predetermined echo request;

4 an access server that includes said terminal unit through a
5 communication line and repeats data and said echo request to be
6 communicated between said terminal unit and said access sever,
7 decrements a count value of the echo request every time repeating
8 the echo request, and, when the count value becomes zero, sends
9 an echo response to the sender of the echo request;

10 one or more routers that are connected to said access server,
11 repeats data and said echo request to be communicated between said
12 terminal unit and said routers, decrements a count value of the
13 echo request every time repeating the echo request, and, when the
14 count value becomes zero, sends an echo response to the sender of
15 the echo request; and

16 an application server that is connected to any one of said
17 routers, said application server comprising a first echo request
18 sending means that sends a first echo request to said terminal unit,
19 a first echo response receiving means that receives a first echo
20 response in reply to the first echo request from said terminal unit,

21 a first measuring means that measures a first round trip time as
22 a data delay time between said terminal unit and said application
23 server, said first round trip time being an elapsed time from send
24 time of the first echo request until receive time of the first echo
25 response, an estimating means that estimates the number of routers
26 up to said access server from a counter value of the first echo
27 response received by said first echo response receiving means, a
28 second echo request sending means that sends a second echo request
29 with a count value that is set to be the number of routers estimated
30 by said estimating means to said terminal unit, a second echo response
31 receiving means that receives a second echo response in reply to
32 the second echo request, a second measuring means that measures
33 a second round trip time as a data delay time between said access
34 server and said application server, said second round trip time
35 being an elapsed time from send time of the second echo request
36 until receive time of the second echo response, a communication
37 line delay calculating means that calculates a data delay time of
38 said communication line from the first and second round trip times
39 measured by said first and second measuring means, respectively,
40 a communication line bandwidth storing means that stores a bandwidth
41 of said communication line corresponding to the data delay time
42 of said communication line, and a data sending means that sends
43 data to said terminal unit according to the bandwidth of said
44 communication line stored in said communication line bandwidth storing
45 means corresponding to the data delay time calculated by said
46 communication line delay calculating means.

1 4. A network system, according to claim 3, wherein:

2 said application server comprises an echo response judging
3 means that judges whether the second echo response received by said
4 second echo response receiving means is sent from said terminal
5 unit or not, and a re-sending means that, when said echo response
6 judging means judges that the second echo response received by said
7 second echo response receiving means is sent from said terminal
8 unit, makes said second echo request sending means send another
9 second echo request with a count value that is set to be less than
10 the number of routers estimated by said estimating means to said
11 terminal unit.

1 5. A network system, according to claim 3, wherein:

2 said application server comprises a data sending means that,
3 a data delay time of the communication line calculated by said
4 communication line delay calculating means is larger than a
5 predetermined threshold value, sends data to said terminal unit
6 based on a bandwidth stored in said communication line bandwidth
7 storing means in accordance with the data delay time, and, when
8 the data delay time of the communication line calculated is smaller
9 than the predetermined threshold value, sends data to said terminal
10 unit at a maximum bandwidth in the communication line up to said
11 terminal unit.

1 6. A network system, according to claim 4, wherein:

2 said application server comprises a data sending means that,
3 a data delay time of the communication line calculated by said
4 communication line delay calculating means is larger than a
5 predetermined threshold value, sends data to said terminal unit

6 based on a bandwidth stored in said communication line bandwidth
7 storing means in accordance with the data delay time, and, when
8 the data delay time of the communication line calculated is smaller
9 than the predetermined threshold value, sends data to said terminal
10 unit at a maximum bandwidth in the communication line up to said
11 terminal unit.

1 7. A network system, according to claim 3, wherein:
2 said terminal unit comprises a connection request sending means
3 that sends a connection request to said application server prior
4 to receiving data from said application server, and a responding
5 means that receives a connection approval in reply to the connection
6 request as the first echo request and sends a response in reply
7 to the connection approval as the first echo response; and
8 said application server comprises a transmitting means that
9 sends the connection approval in reply to the connection request
10 sent from said connection request sending means as the first echo
11 request, and a communication line setting means that receives the
12 response sent from said responding means as the first echo response
13 and sets a communication line between said terminal unit and said
14 application server.

1 8. A network system, according to claim 4, wherein:
2 said terminal unit comprises a connection request sending means
3 that sends a connection request to said application server prior
4 to receiving data from said application server, and a responding
5 means that receives a connection approval in reply to the connection
6 request as the first echo request and sends a response in reply

7 to the connection approval as the first echo response; and
8 said application server comprises a transmitting means that
9 sends the connection approval in reply to the connection request
10 sent from said connection request sending means as the first echo
11 request, and a communication line setting means that receives the
12 response sent from said responding means as the first echo response
13 and sets a communication line between said terminal unit and said
14 application server.

1 9. A network system, according to claim 5, wherein:

2 said terminal unit comprises a connection request sending means
3 that sends a connection request to said application server prior
4 to receiving data from said application server, and a responding
5 means that receives a connection approval in reply to the connection
6 request as the first echo request and sends a response in reply
7 to the connection approval as the first echo response; and
8 said application server comprises a transmitting means that
9 sends the connection approval in reply to the connection request
10 sent from said connection request sending means as the first echo
11 request, and a communication line setting means that receives the
12 response sent from said responding means as the first echo response
13 and sets a communication line between said terminal unit and said
14 application server.

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